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ABSTRACT

From four tables compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it was demonstrated that, for the first time, the number of Americans with work experience exceeded 100 million. The number of 16-year-olds and over who worked increased by 3.2 million. A record 54 percent of all women in the population worked in 1973; nearly one-third of them worked part-time and accounted for over half of the rise in the number of women with work experience. About 1.8 million more persons worked all year at usually full-time jobs in 1973 than in 1972. The number of persons unemployed for one week or more in 1973 decreased by almost 800,000 over the year to 14.5 million. A greater proportion of Negroes than whites were unemployed at some time during the year. The tables from which the data were summarized were: work experience by extent of employment and sex, extent of work experience during the year by race and sex, extent of unemployment during the year by sex, and extent of unemployment during the year by race and sex. All data were for persons 16 years old or over during 1972 and 1973. (Author/AG)

SUMMARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Bureau of Labor Statistics
SPECIAL LABOR FORCE REPORT

ED 099618

Work Experience of the Population in 1973

The number of Americans with work experience topped 100 million for the first time, in 1973. (See table 1.) The number of 16-year-olds and over who worked at some time during the year increased by 3.2 million, a larger increase than in any prior year, and more than kept pace with population growth. The rise was among both whites and Negroes. (See table 2.)

Women accounted for 1.9 million of the increase as their number with work experience moved past the 41-million mark; a record 54 percent of all women in the population worked during 1973. Nearly one-third of all employed women worked part time and they accounted for over half of the rise in the number of women with work experience.

The impact of the energy crisis on employment came too late in 1973 to affect substantially the data for work experience, which cover the entire year. About 1.8 million more persons worked all year at usually full-time jobs in 1973 than in 1972. However, the proportion of workers employed all year at full-time jobs was unchanged.

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The number of persons unemployed for 1 week or more in 1973 decreased by almost 800,000 over the year to 14.5 million. (See table 3.) The number of persons with accumulated unemployment of 15 weeks or more also declined by 1 million to 4.3 million. Among all persons who worked or looked for work, the proportion with unemployment fell to 14.2 percent in 1973 from 15.4 percent in 1972. As in other recent years, about a third of the unemployed who also worked at some time during the year had two spells or more of unemployment.

As in previous years, a greater proportion of Negroes than whites were unemployed at some time during the year--21.2 percent compared to 13.3 percent in 1973. Also, a greater proportion of Negro than white workers having some unemployment during the year, were unemployed for 15 weeks or more--41.4 percent compared to 33.2 percent. (See table 4.)

These findings are from the annual survey of the work experience of the population 16 years old and over, which was conducted in March 1974 by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Additional information on the work experience of the population in 1973 will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Monthly Labor Review.

Table 1. Work experience during the year of persons 16 years old and over, by extent of employment and sex, 1972 and 1973

Extent of employment	Both sexes		Men		Women	
	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973
	Number (in thousands)					
Population	145,175	147,815	68,367	69,704	76,808	78,111
Total who worked or looked for work during the year						
Number	99,029	101,813	57,796	58,855	41,233	42,958
Percent of population	68.2	68.9	84.5	84.4	53.7	55.0
Total who worked during the year 1/	96,972	100,203	57,054	58,370	39,918	41,833
Percent of population	66.8	67.8	83.5	83.7	52.0	53.6
Full time 2/	77,626	79,490	50,022	51,017	27,604	28,473
50 to 52 weeks	55,379	57,209	38,398	39,692	16,981	17,517
48 and 49 weeks	2,203	2,223	1,375	1,385	828	838
40 to 47 weeks	4,284	4,462	2,628	2,691	1,656	1,771
27 to 39 weeks	5,104	5,078	2,749	2,586	2,355	2,492
14 to 26 weeks	5,705	5,349	2,662	2,274	3,043	2,985
1 to 13 weeks	4,951	5,169	2,210	2,299	2,741	2,870
Part time	19,346	20,713	7,032	7,353	12,314	13,360
50 to 52 weeks	6,519	6,972	2,388	2,512	4,131	4,460
48 and 49 weeks	547	627	200	205	347	422
40 to 47 weeks	1,444	1,636	504	564	940	1,072
27 to 39 weeks	2,302	2,520	809	845	1,493	1,675
14 to 26 weeks	3,785	4,009	1,431	1,415	2,354	2,594
1 to 13 weeks	4,749	4,949	1,700	1,812	3,049	3,137
	Percent distribution					
Total who worked during the year 1/	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time 2/	80.0	79.3	87.7	87.4	69.2	68.1
50 to 52 weeks	57.1	57.1	67.3	68.0	42.5	41.9
48 and 49 weeks	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.0
40 to 47 weeks	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.2
27 to 39 weeks	5.3	5.1	4.8	4.4	5.9	6.0
14 to 26 weeks	5.9	5.3	4.7	4.0	7.6	7.1
1 to 13 weeks	5.1	5.2	3.9	3.9	6.9	6.9
Part time	20.0	20.7	12.3	12.6	30.8	31.9
50 to 52 weeks	6.7	7.0	4.2	4.3	10.3	10.7
48 and 49 weeks	.6	.6	.4	.4	.9	1.0
40 to 47 weeks	1.5	1.6	.9	1.0	2.4	2.6
27 to 39 weeks	2.4	2.5	1.4	1.4	3.7	4.0
14 to 26 weeks	3.9	4.0	2.5	2.4	5.9	6.2
1 to 13 weeks	4.9	4.9	3.0	3.1	7.6	7.5

1/ Time worked includes paid vacation and sick leave.
2/ Usually worked 35 hours or more a week.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 2. Extent of work experience during the year for persons 16 years old and over, by race and sex, 1972 and 1973

Extent of employment	Both sexes		Men		Women	
	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973
WHITE	Number (in thousands)					
Population	128,622	130,729	60,865	61,985	67,757	68,744
Total who worked or looked for work during the year						
Number	87,762	90,151	51,818	52,748	35,944	37,403
Percent of population	68.2	69.0	85.1	85.1	53.0	54.4
Total who worked						
Number	86,310	89,029	51,290	52,375	35,020	36,654
Percent of population	67.1	68.1	84.3	84.5	51.7	53.3
	Percent distribution					
Total who worked	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time 1/	79.9	79.2	87.8	87.5	68.3	67.2
50 to 52 weeks	57.4	57.5	67.9	68.7	41.9	41.5
27 to 49 weeks	11.9	11.5	11.7	11.1	12.1	12.0
1 to 26 weeks	10.7	10.2	8.2	7.6	14.3	13.8
Part time	20.1	20.8	12.2	12.5	31.7	32.8
50 to 52 weeks	6.8	7.0	4.2	4.3	10.6	11.0
27 to 49 weeks	4.5	4.9	2.7	2.8	7.3	7.9
1 to 26 weeks	8.8	8.9	5.3	5.4	13.9	13.9
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES	Number (in thousands)					
Population	16,553	17,086	7,502	7,719	9,051	9,367
Total who worked or looked for work during the year						
Number	11,267	11,662	5,978	6,107	5,289	5,555
Percent of population	68.1	68.3	79.7	79.1	58.4	59.3
Total who worked						
Number	10,662	11,174	5,764	5,995	4,898	5,179
Percent of population	64.4	65.4	76.8	77.7	54.1	55.4
	Percent distribution					
Total who worked	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full time 1/	81.1	80.6	86.2	86.3	75.1	74.0
50 to 52 weeks	55.1	53.7	61.8	61.6	47.2	44.7
27 to 49 weeks	12.5	13.8	12.7	13.7	12.3	13.9
1 to 26 weeks	13.5	13.0	11.6	11.0	15.7	15.4
Part time	18.9	19.4	13.8	13.7	24.9	26.0
50 to 52 weeks	6.2	6.3	3.9	4.4	8.9	8.5
27 to 49 weeks	3.7	3.8	2.6	2.4	4.9	5.5
1 to 26 weeks	9.1	9.3	7.3	6.9	11.1	12.0

1/ Usually worked 35 hours or more a week.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 3. Extent of unemployment during the year of persons 16 years old and over, by sex, 1972 and 1973

Extent of unemployment	Both sexes		Men		Women	
	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973
	Number (in thousands)					
Total who worked or looked for work during the year	99,029	101,813	57,796	58,855	41,233	42,958
Percent with unemployment	15.4	14.2	15.2	13.5	15.7	15.3
Total with unemployment	15,287	14,498	8,798	7,921	6,489	6,577
With work experience	13,230	12,888	8,056	7,436	5,174	5,452
Year-round workers 1/ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	1,154	1,202	827	857	327	345
Part-year workers 2/ with unemployment	12,076	11,686	7,229	6,579	4,847	5,107
With unemployment of--						
1 to 4 weeks	3,401	3,720	1,744	1,771	1,657	1,949
5 to 10 weeks	2,608	2,638	1,675	1,575	933	1,063
11 to 14 weeks	1,512	1,531	994	934	518	597
15 to 26 weeks	2,699	2,383	1,714	1,510	985	873
27 weeks or more	1,856	1,414	1,102	789	754	625
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	4,308	4,183	2,814	2,650	1,494	1,533
2 spells	2,097	2,014	1,323	1,177	774	837
3 spells or more	2,211	2,169	1,491	1,473	720	696
Did not work but looked for work	2,057	1,610	742	485	1,315	1,125
1 to 14 weeks	1,312	1,114	370	240	942	875
15 weeks or more	745	496	372	245	373	250
	Percent distribution					
Total unemployed persons with work experience	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers 1/ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	8.7	9.3	10.3	11.5	6.3	6.3
Part-year workers 2/ with unemployment	91.3	90.7	89.7	88.5	93.7	93.7
With unemployment of--						
1 to 4 weeks	25.7	28.9	21.6	23.8	32.0	35.7
5 to 10 weeks	19.7	20.5	20.8	21.2	18.0	19.5
11 to 14 weeks	11.4	11.9	12.3	12.6	10.0	11.0
15 to 26 weeks	20.4	18.5	21.3	20.3	19.0	16.0
27 weeks or more	14.0	11.0	13.7	10.6	14.6	11.5
With 2 spells or more of unemployment	32.6	32.5	34.9	35.6	28.9	28.1
2 spells	15.8	15.6	16.4	15.8	15.0	15.4
3 spells or more	16.7	16.8	18.5	19.8	13.9	12.8
Did not work but looked for work	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1 to 14 weeks	63.8	69.2	49.9	49.4	71.6	77.8
15 weeks or more	36.2	30.8	50.1	50.6	28.4	22.2

1/ Worked 50 or 51 weeks.
2/ Worked less than 50 weeks.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 4. Extent of unemployment during the year for persons 16 years old and over, by race and sex, 1972 and 1973

Extent of unemployment	Both sexes		Men		Women	
	1972	1973	1972	1973	1972	1973
WHITE	Number (in thousands)					
Total who worked or looked for work during the year	87,762	90,151	51,818	52,748	35,944	37,403
Percent with unemployment	14.6	13.3	14.4	12.7	14.7	14.3
Total with unemployment	12,770	12,027	7,475	6,676	5,295	5,351
Did not work but looked for work	1,452	1,122	528	373	924	749
1 to 14 weeks	970	792	271	189	699	603
15 weeks or more	482	330	257	184	225	146
With work experience	11,318	10,905	6,947	6,303	4,371	4,602
Unemployed for--						
1 to 14 weeks	7,555	7,829	4,603	4,434	2,952	3,395
15 weeks or more	3,763	3,076	2,344	1,869	1,419	1,207
	Percent distribution					
Unemployed persons with work experience, total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers 1/ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	8.8	9.4	10.5	11.7	6.1	6.4
Part-year workers 2/ with unemployment	91.2	90.6	89.5	88.3	93.9	93.6
With unemployment of--						
1 to 4 weeks	26.1	29.3	21.8	24.2	33.0	36.3
5 to 10 weeks	20.1	21.1	21.2	21.8	18.4	20.1
11 to 14 weeks	11.7	12.0	12.8	12.7	10.0	11.0
15 to 26 weeks	20.1	17.9	21.0	19.6	18.8	15.6
27 weeks or more	13.1	10.3	12.8	10.1	13.7	10.6
Percent with 2 spells or more of unemployment	32.1	32.2	34.4	35.0	28.4	28.3
2 spells	16.0	15.9	16.6	15.9	15.0	15.9
3 spells or more	16.1	16.3	17.8	19.1	13.4	12.4
NEGRO AND OTHER RACES	Number (in thousands)					
Total who worked or looked for work during the year	11,267	11,662	5,978	6,107	5,289	5,555
Percent with unemployment	22.3	21.2	22.1	20.4	22.6	22.0
Total with unemployment	2,517	2,471	1,323	1,245	1,194	1,226
Did not work but looked for work	605	488	214	112	391	376
1 to 14 weeks	342	322	99	50	243	272
15 weeks or more	263	166	115	62	148	104
With work experience	1,912	1,983	1,109	1,133	803	850
Unemployed for--						
1 to 14 weeks	1,120	1,262	637	703	483	559
15 weeks or more	792	721	472	430	320	291
	Percent distribution					
Unemployed persons with work experience, total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Year-round workers 1/ with 1 or 2 weeks of unemployment	8.3	8.7	8.8	10.7	7.5	6.1
Part-year workers 2/ with unemployment	91.7	91.3	91.2	89.3	92.5	93.9
With unemployment of--						
1 to 4 weeks	23.2	26.4	20.8	21.7	26.5	32.7
5 to 10 weeks	17.2	17.2	18.0	17.8	16.1	16.5
11 to 14 weeks	9.9	11.2	9.7	11.8	10.1	10.5
15 to 26 weeks	22.1	21.8	23.3	24.3	20.5	18.5
27 weeks or more	19.3	14.6	19.3	13.7	19.3	15.8
Percent with 2 spells or more of unemployment	35.3	33.8	38.0	38.9	31.6	27.1
2 spells	15.1	14.1	15.3	15.4	14.8	12.2
3 spells or more	20.2	19.8	22.6	23.5	16.8	14.8

1/ Worked 50 weeks or more.
2/ Worked less than 50 weeks.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

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